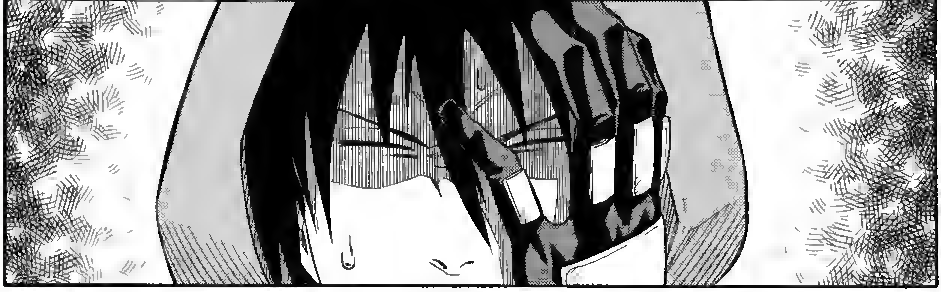
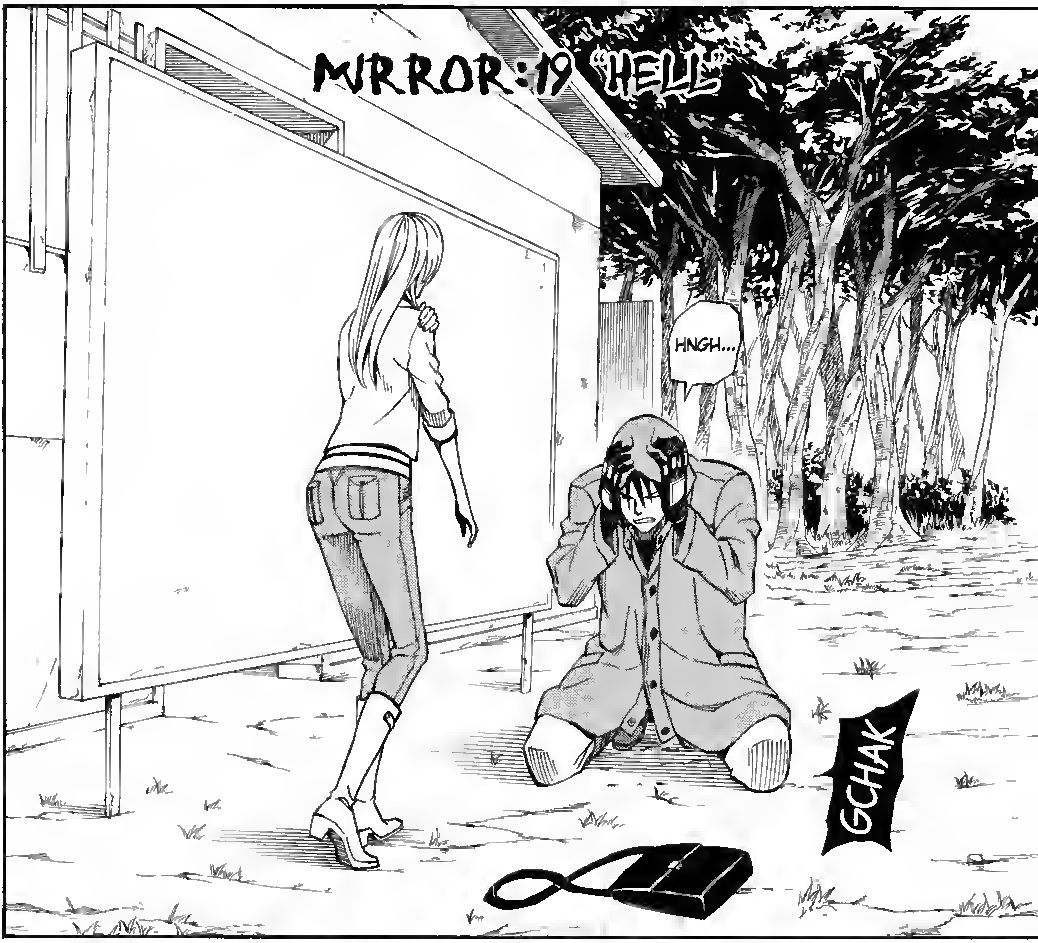
SUKEDACHI NINE
助太刀09

WHERE...
HURRY UP...
...AND ANSWER M-ME!!
WHAT?! SOME-THING'S WRONG HERE!!
KRIK
...DID YOU GET THIS PENDANT ?!
EH
TWITCH
YUUJI... SENPAI?!



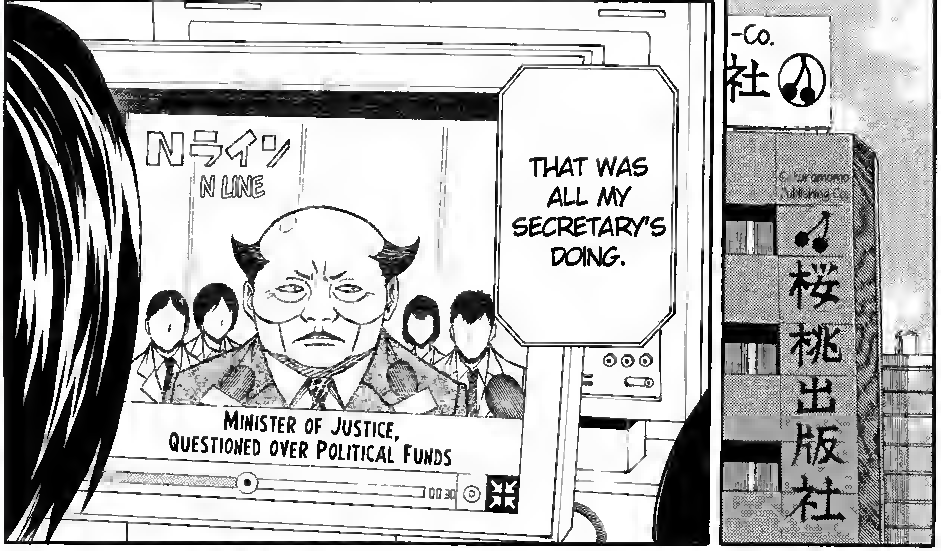

MIRROR:19 "HELL"
HNGH...
GCHAK

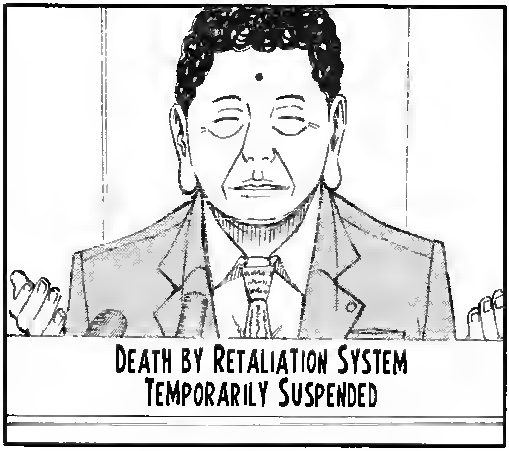
SHOOF

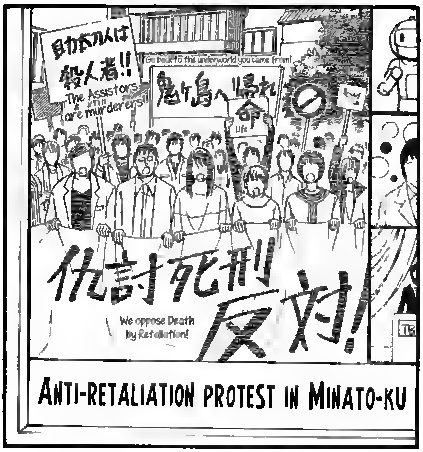
A CABLE WIRE?!
TWING.
TWING
FWISHH
GWREEEEE
!!
SENPAI ...?

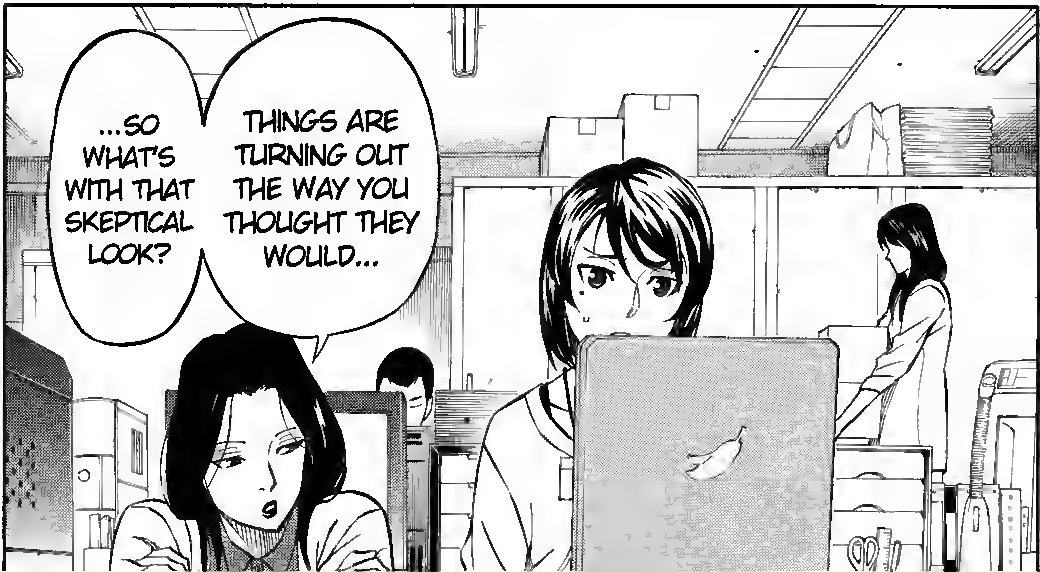
...I DIDN'T FEEL THE USUAL URGE TO FORCE HIM OFF ME.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... HE'S MALE, AND HE TOUCHED ME, BUT...
KRIK
THIS ISN'T HOW YUUJI-SENPAI NORMALLY ACTS!
I WAS RIGHT...
!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HIS MIND RIGHT NOW?
BESIDES THAT... SENPAI'S FOCUS WAS ON THIS PENDANT.
I WONDER WHY...?
!
GLUG
GLUG

GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
!!!
DID SENPAI DO THIS?!

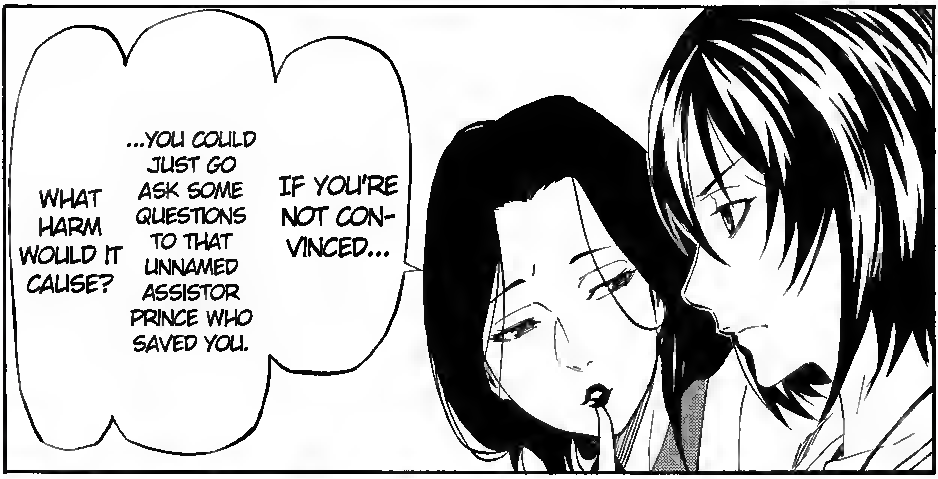

Nライン
N LINE
THAT WAS ALL MY SECRETARY'S DOING.
MINISTER OF JUSTICE, QUESTIONED OVER POLITICAL FUNDS
-Co.
社
桜桃出版社

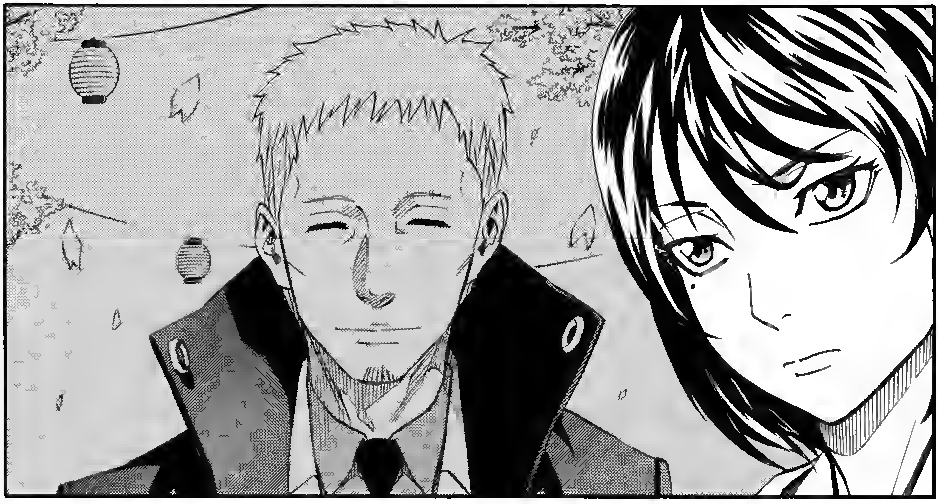

DEATH BY RETALIATION SYSTEM TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

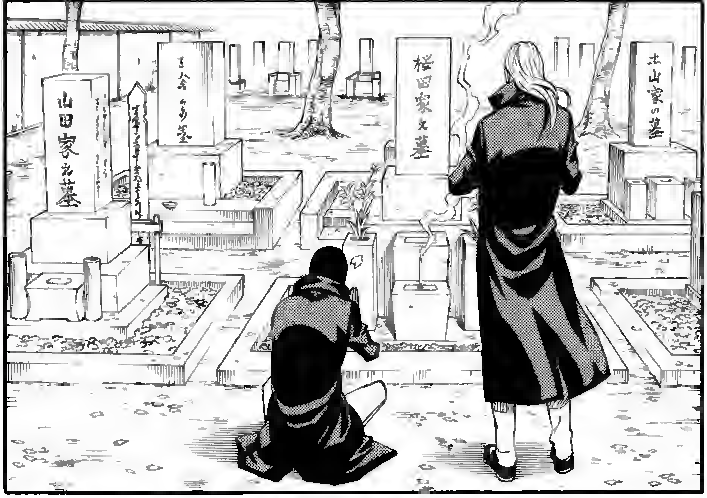

殺人者!!
The Assessors are murderers!
鬼ヶ島へ帰れ
Go back to the underworld you came from!
仇討死刑反対!
We oppose Death by Retaliation!
ANTI-RETALIATION PROTEST IN MINATO-KU


...SO WHAT'S WITH THAT SKEPTICAL LOOK?
THINGS ARE TURNING OUT THE WAY YOU THOUGHT THEY WOULD...

THE PROTESTS AND THOSE FAKE RETALIATIONS ARE ON THE RISE.
YOU THINK SO?
IT'D BE NATURAL TO SUSPEND THINGS AS THEY ARE.
I MEAN, THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T EVEN GIVEN US A GOOD REASON FOR IT.
WOULD THE RETALIATION SYSTEM REALLY BE SUSPENDED OVER THESE SORTS OF THINGS?


WHAT HARM WOULD IT CAUSE?
...YOU COULD JUST GO ASK SOME QUESTIONS TO THAT UNNAMED ASSISTOR PRINCE WHO SAVED YOU.
IF YOU'RE NOT CONVINCED...

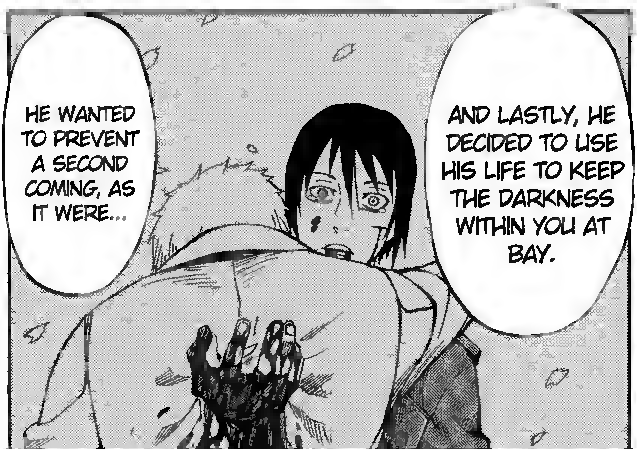


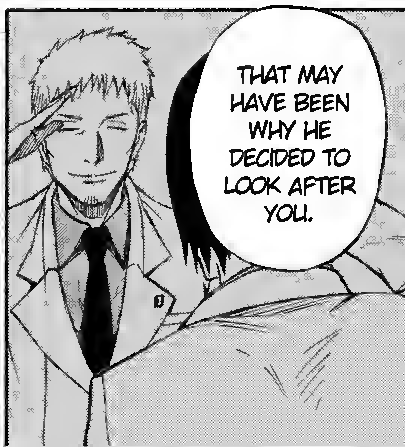

桜田家之墓
土山家の墓
山田家之墓

Sakurada Family Grave
桜田家之墓

THANK GOD THEN THAT YOU MANAGED TO AVOID THAT PITFALL.

SAKURADA HAD A FEELING THAT YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN DIGGING YOURSELF INTO A DARK PIT.
MUCH LIKE HE HAD...


HE WANTED TO PREVENT A SECOND COMING, AS IT WERE...
AND LASTLY, HE DECIDED TO USE HIS LIFE TO KEEP THE DARKNESS WITHIN YOU AT BAY.

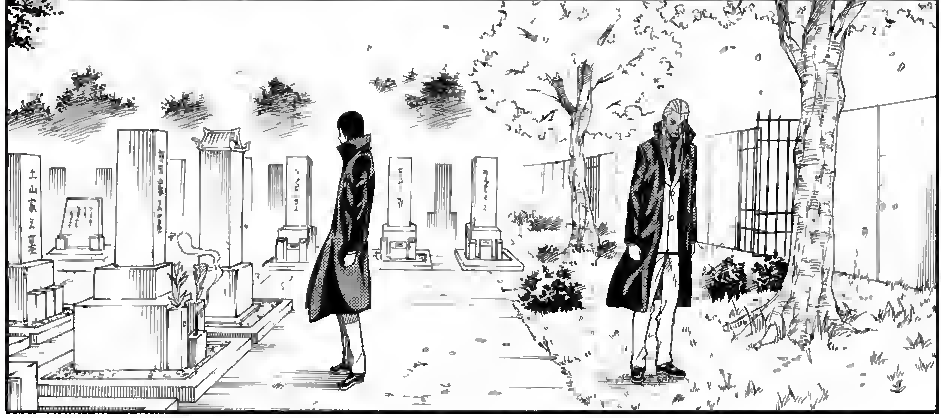

THAT MAY HAVE BEEN WHY HE DECIDED TO LOOK AFTER YOU.

SAKURADA TRIED HIS BEST TO BE YOUR HERO...
I UNDERSTAND, SIR.
...I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S THE EMOTIONS WE HAVE THAT CREATE THE RAZOR-THIN MARGIN BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL...
AND...
...WHENEVER WE REACT TO SOMETHING DRAMATIC IN OUR LIVES.
.....
...THAT'S WHAT MAKES US HUMAN.
AND HUMANS...
...WILL JUDGE AND BE JUDGED.
IS THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE REALLY BEING SUSPENDED?
WE'RE BEING SUSPENDED. WE'RE NOT BEING DISBANDED.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO...?

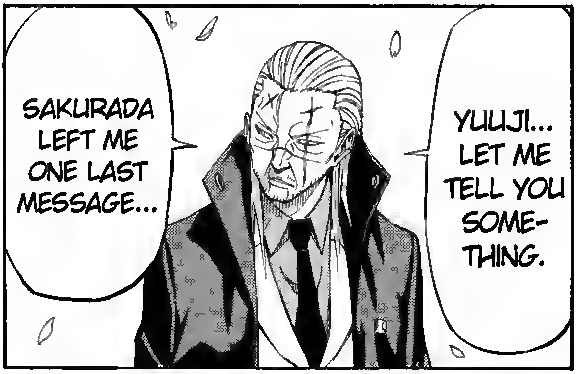
DON'T FORGET THAT.
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU'RE STILL AN ASSISTOR.
Sakurada Family
桜田家

NO MATTER WHAT PITFALLS STILL LAY AHEAD OF US, I WILL OVERCOME THEM ALL.
NOT JUST FOR MY SAKE, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF MY ALLIES AS WELL.

AND FOR SAKURADA-SAN...
Sakurada Family
桜田家
...WHO GAVE HIS LIFE TO TEACH ME HIS FINAL LESSON!

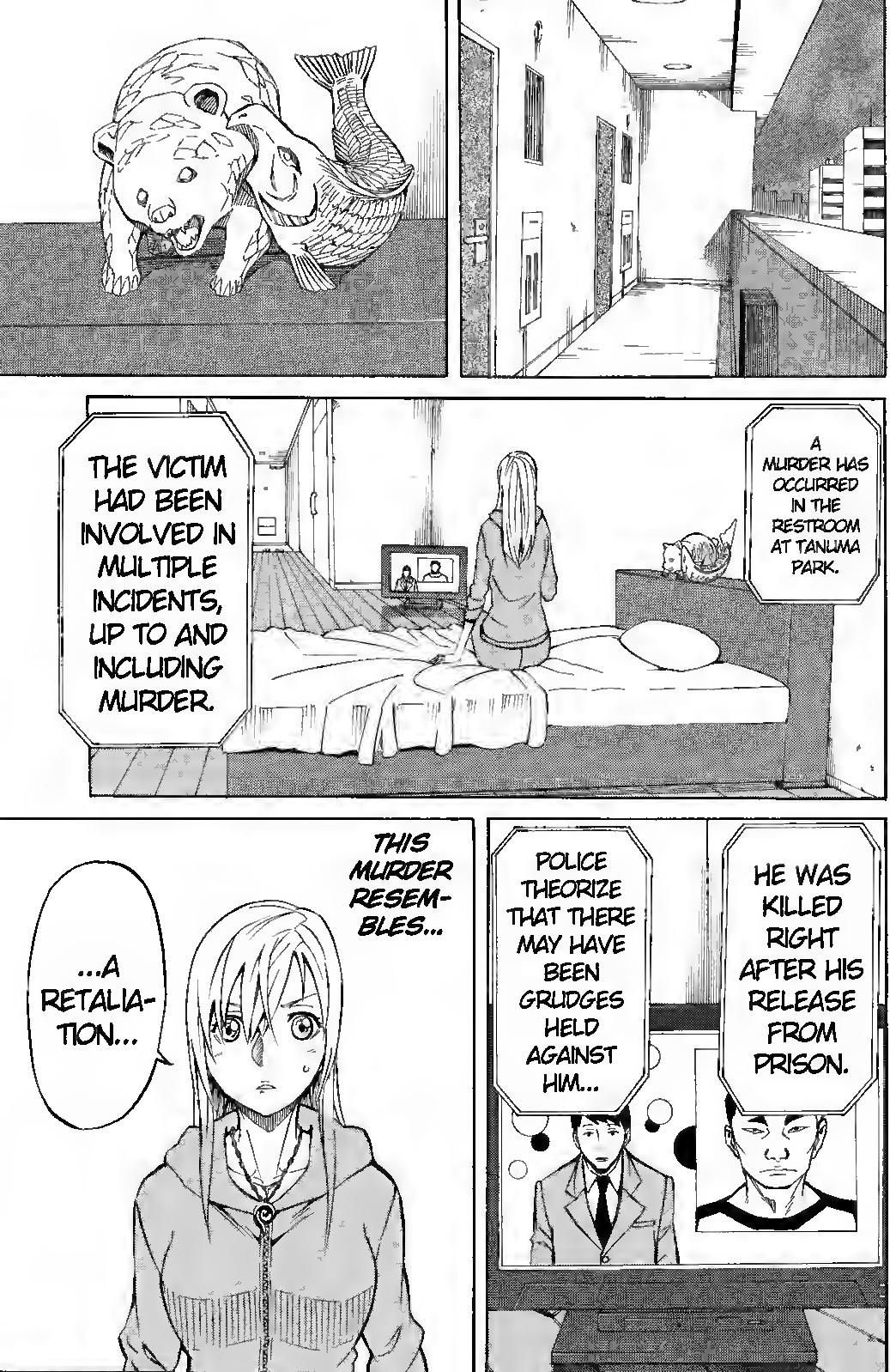


……?

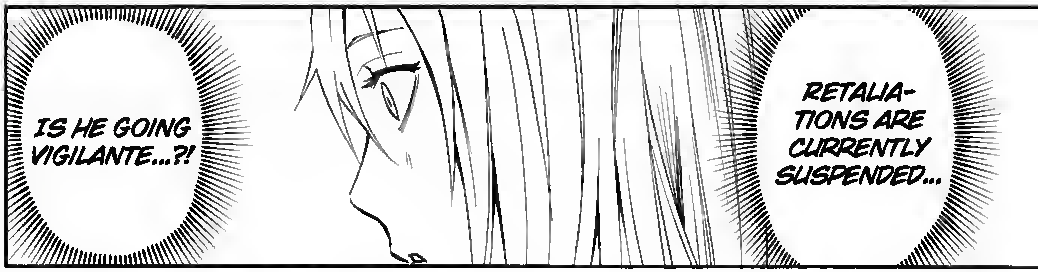

SAKURADA LEFT ME ONE LAST MESSAGE...
YUUJI... LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING.

BE CAREFUL.
……
...LIES A MOLE WHO'S BEEN EAGERLY DIGGING PITFALLS FOR US ALL TO FALL INTO.
WITHIN THE ASSISTORS' RANKS...

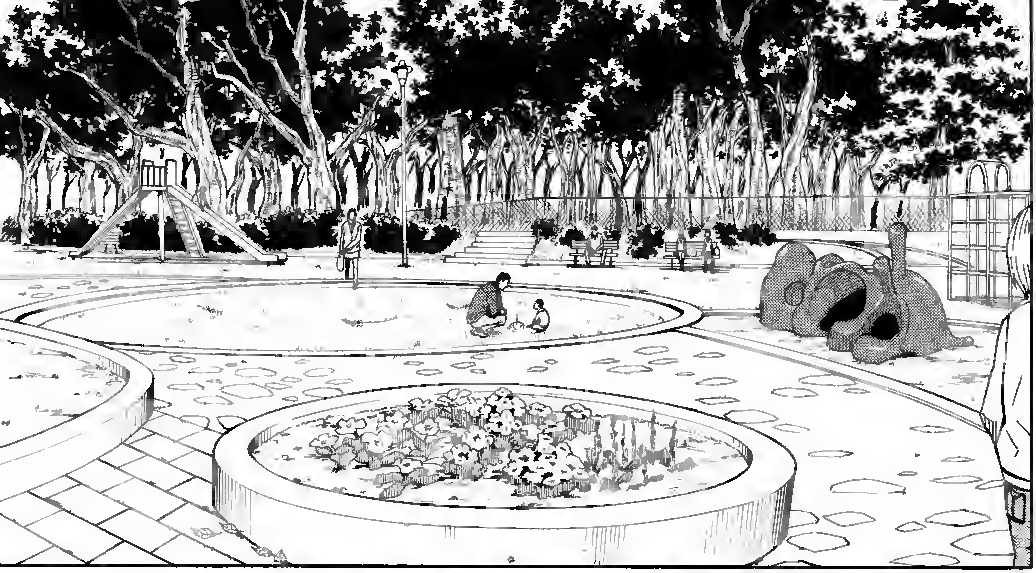
THAT'S KINDA TASTY...
ONE CUP DOWN...
TILT
GULP
CHAK

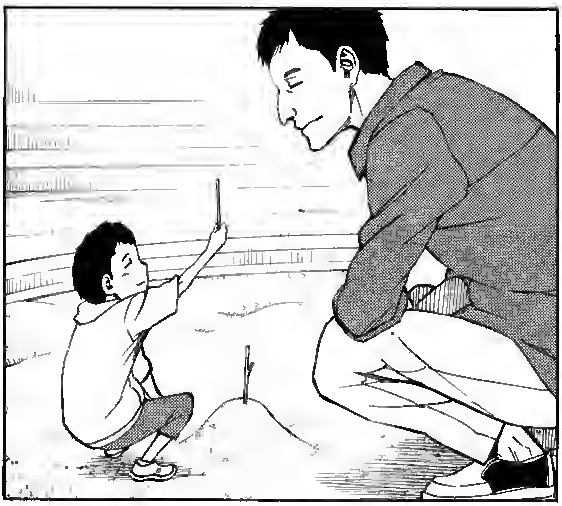

A MURDER HAS OCCURRED IN THE RESTROOM AT TANUMA PARK.
THE VICTIM HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN MULTIPLE INCIDENTS, UP TO AND INCLUDING MURDER.
HE WAS KILLED RIGHT AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON.
POLICE THEORIZE THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN GRUDGES HELD AGAINST HIM...
THIS MURDER RESEMBLES...
...A RETALIATION...

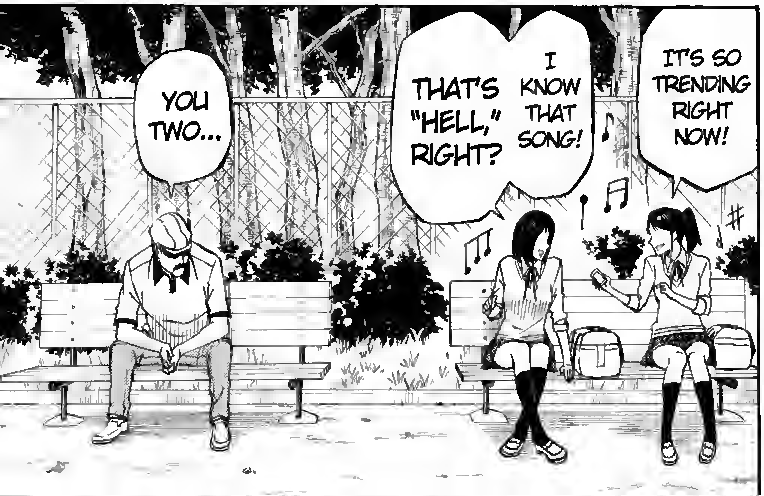
HEY YUUJI, YOU SEEM A LITTLE... DIFFERENT NOW-ADAYS...
PERHAPS THE OTHER SIDE OF YOU IS AWAKENING...
...HAD TO BE SENPAI...!
KRIK
THEN THAT MAN IN THE PARK...


IS HE GOING VIGILANTE...?!
RETALIA-TIONS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED...

...NO...
...THERE'S NO WAY...
SQUEEZE





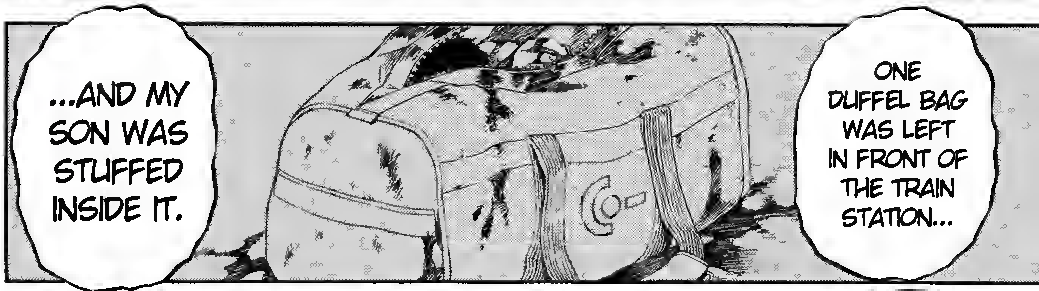

YOU TWO...
THAT'S "HELL," RIGHT?
I KNOW THAT SONG!
IT'S SO TRENDING RIGHT NOW!

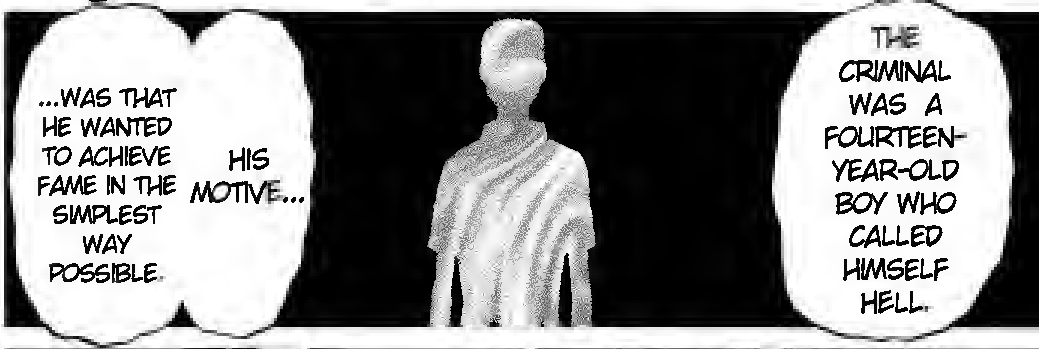
HERE WE GO!
KISS KISS SKISS
SAYONARA A
HELL

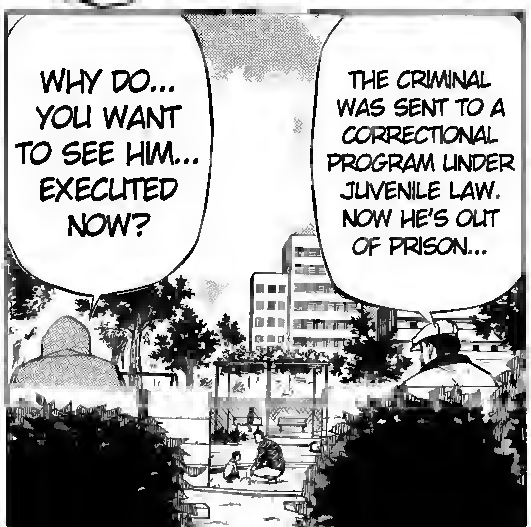
STOP PLAYING...
...THAT SONG!!
LET'S SCRAM.
DUDE, HE'S TROUBLE...
WHAT THE HELL'S HIS PROBLEM ...?
EH?!

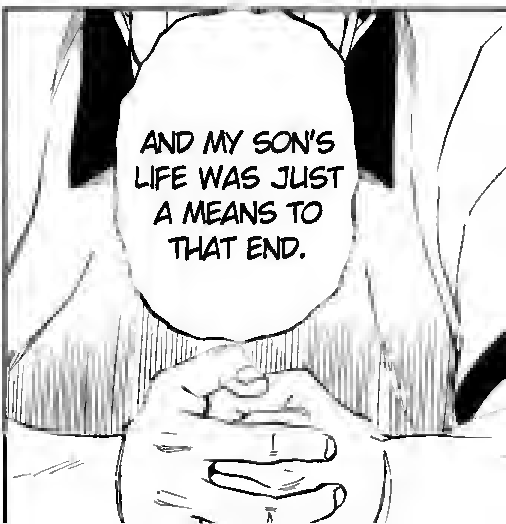
I thought he was gonna assault us!
SORRY, WRONG GUY...
D-DEATH PEN-ALTY?!
Whisper
WHFF
!
SOUL.
YOU'RE...
HE REALLY SHOWED UP...
WHAT'S THE... JOB...?
.....
...IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO.

MY SON WAS AROUND THAT BOY'S AGE...
...WHEN HE WAS KILLED.


ONE DUFFEL BAG WAS LEFT IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN STATION...
...AND MY SON WAS STUFFED INSIDE IT.

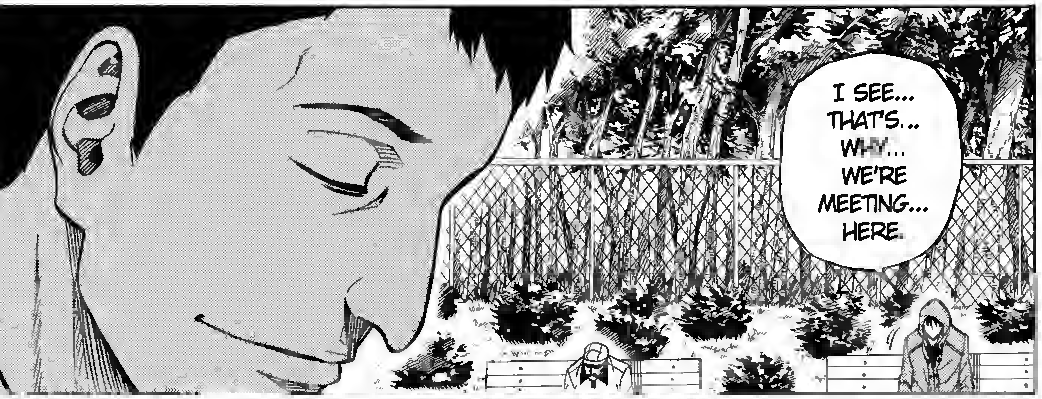

THE CRIMINAL WAS A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO CALLED HIMSELF HELL.
HIS MOTIVE...
...WAS THAT HE WANTED TO ACHIEVE FAME IN THE SIMPLEST WAY POSSIBLE.


THE CRIMINAL WAS SENT TO A CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM UNDER JUVENILE LAW. NOW HE'S OUT OF PRISON...
WHY DO... YOU WANT TO SEE HIM... EXECUTED NOW?


AND MY SON'S LIFE WAS JUST A MEANS TO THAT END.

ALL THOSE LYRICS STRUNG TOGETHER SOUND LIKE A BRAT'S EXCUSES TO ADULTS!
...HE TURNED HIS EMOTIONS FROM THAT MURDER INTO A GODDAMN JINGLE!
NOW THAT THE BASTARD'S FREE...
NO ONE WHO REFLECTS ON THEIR SINS WRITES THOSE KINDS OF LYRICS...
HE'S GOTTEN FAME AND MONEY OUT OF IT...
...AND NOW HE'S TURNED MY BOY'S DEATH INTO A HOOK.
HE SCREWED MY LIFE OVER BY MURDERING MY LITTLE BOY...
I'LL MAKE HIM TASTE THE SAME HELL I LIVED THROUGH...
THIS...
...IS UNFOR-GIVABLE.
BECAUSE OF THAT HIT SONG... "HELL."

...HIS DEATH IS... MERITED.
OKAY...
I'LL DESTROY...
...HIS SOUL.
...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOOK IN FRONT OF YOU.
TELL ME HELL'S REAL NAME... OR WHAT HE... LOOKS LIKE.

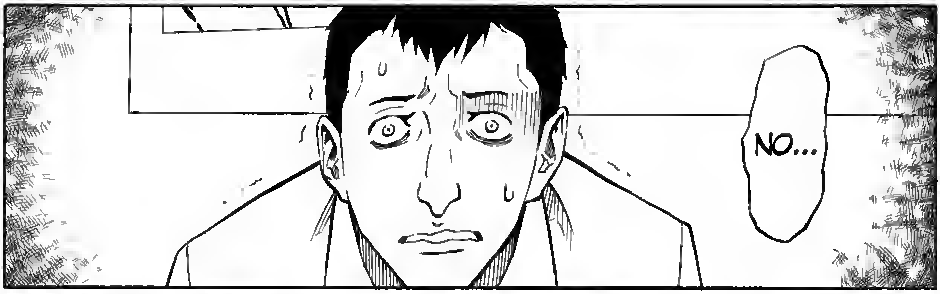

I SEE... THAT'S... WHY... WE'RE MEETING... HERE.

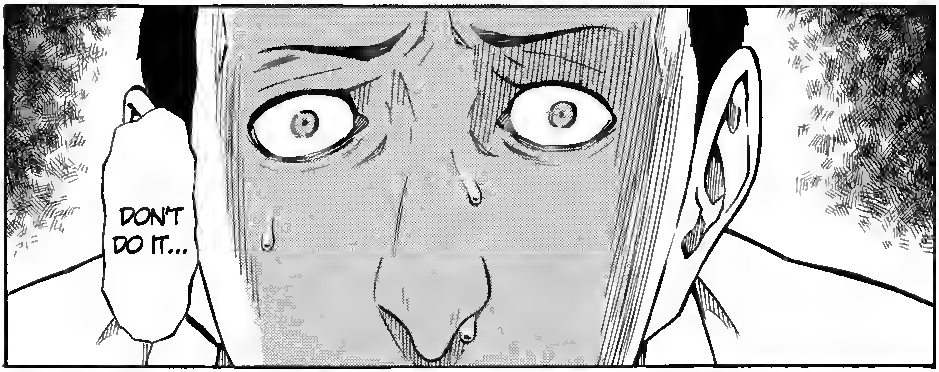
...WITH... A BUDDY...?

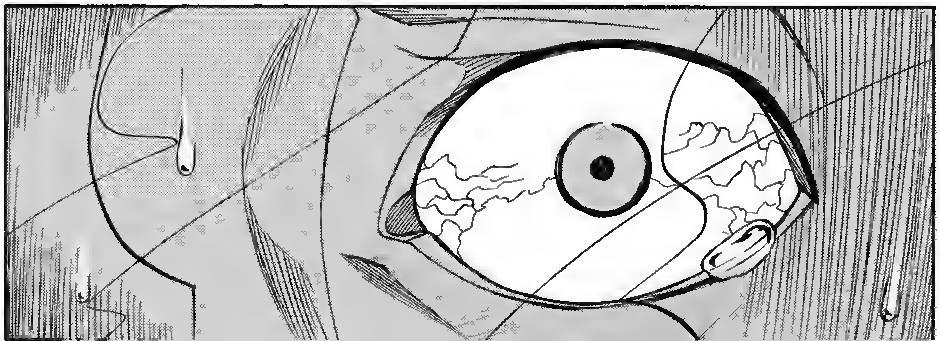
YOU... WILL BE SUSPECTED. WHY NOT GO TAKE A... WEEK-LONG VACATION... OVERSEAS...

I FOUND THAT LETTER AND DVD IN MY MAILBOX ...!
MY SON! MY SON'S BEEN KIDNAPPED!
MIND IF WE PLAY THIS?
Tokyo Metropolitan Police
警視庁
RED LETTERING...?
BD • DVD •
CHRRK
...AND ITS LYRICS?
THIS SONG... IT'S THAT ONE THAT'S TRENDING RIGHT NOW, "HELL"...
!
YOU'RE GONNA BECOME A LOT MORE POPULAR NOW, FORMER BOY HELL.
Now you know what real hell is.

FORMER BOY HELL?
BLOOD WRITING?

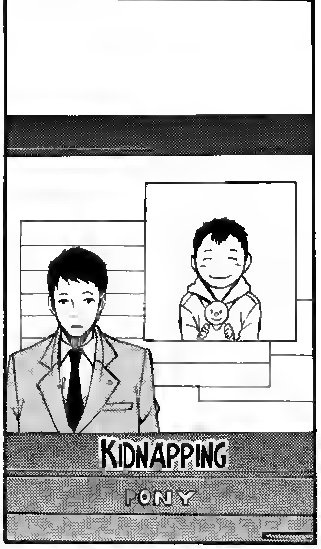

NO...


DON'T DO IT...



Now you know what real hell is.
50 90 90
DO YOU NOW KNOW WHAT REAL HELL IS?
NO-OO-OO-OO-O!!

GOOD... GOD!!
HR-RUU-UGH!
IT... HAS TO BE HIM...
...IT'S HIM...
!?
Y-YES SIR!!
CALL HQ AND TELL THEM TO PUT A SQUAD TOGETHER! WE'VE GOT A KIDNAPPING AND MURDER ON OUR HANDS!!
.....
THEN THIS GUY REALLY USED TO BE THE BOY WHO CALLED HIMSELF HELL?!
IT'S HIM.
IT'S HIM...
...IS THE FATHER OF THE KID I KILLED AGES AGO!!
THE BASTARD WHO DID THIS...

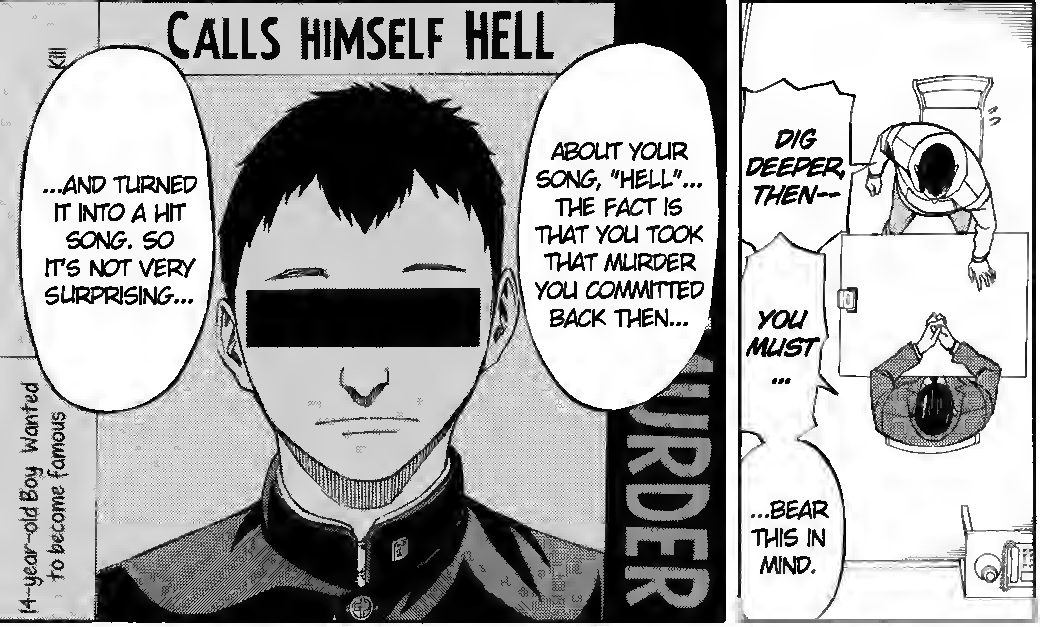

KIDNAPPING
PONY

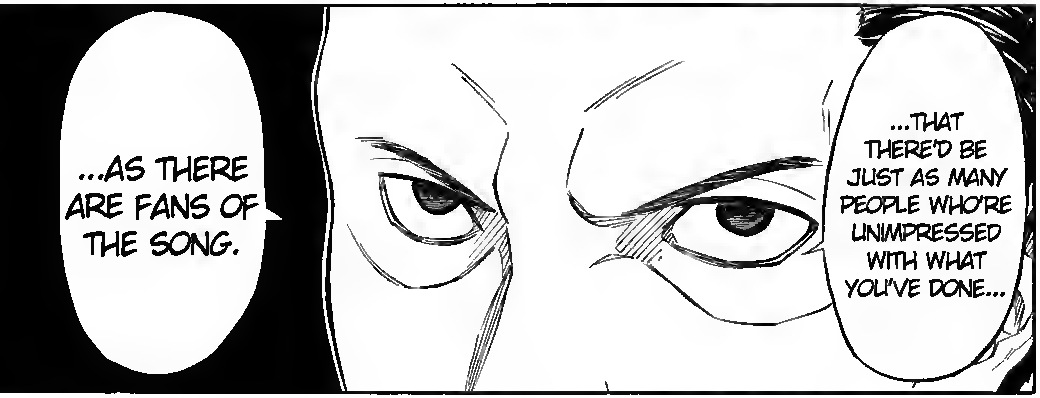
Eastern District Kidnapping and Murder Investigation HQ
東区誘拐殺人事件捜査本

TMPD Eastern District Station
警視庁東区警察署

NUMA-KURO-SAN.
I TOLD YOU THE GUY WHO DID THIS IS SATORU TAWA-TARI!!
FIND HIM, QUICK!!
WHATEVER THAT WAS IN THE VIDEO'S OBVIOUSLY A FAKE!!
MY SON'S STILL ALIVE!! HE HAS TO BE!!

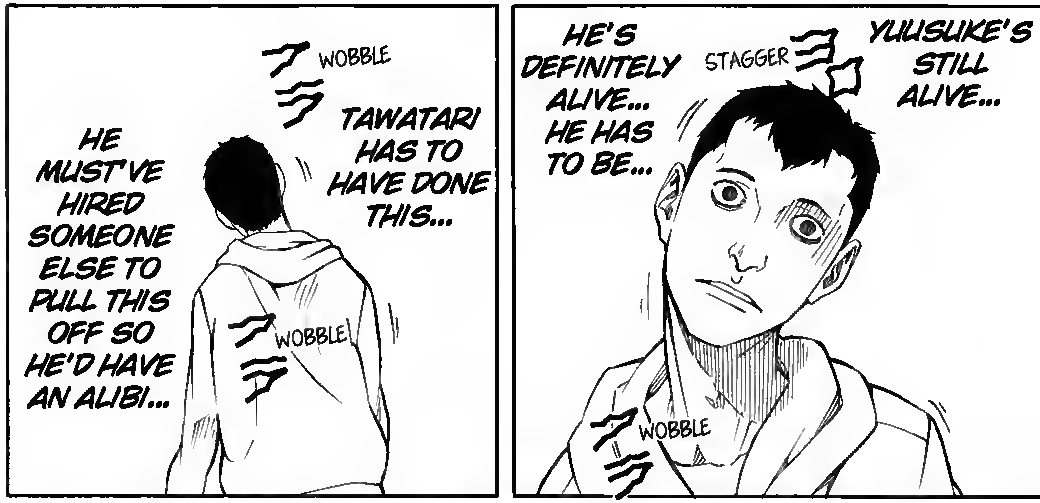
NO...
WE DO HAVE HIM DOWN AS A LEAD, BUT....
...HAS AN ALIBI.
THE MAN YOU SAY IS THE CRIMINAL...

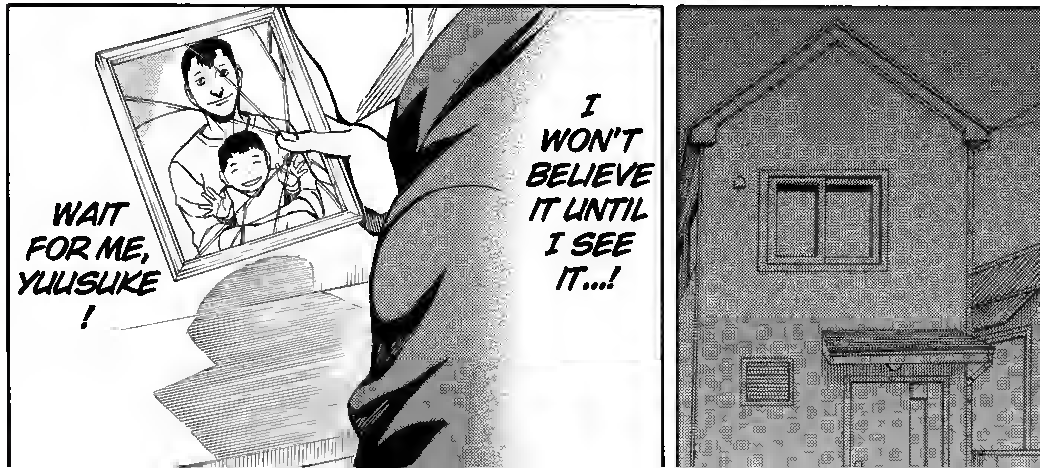

CALLS HIMSELF HELL
...AND TURNED IT INTO A HIT SONG. SO IT'S NOT VERY SURPRISING...
ABOUT YOUR SONG, "HELL"... THE FACT IS THAT YOU TOOK THAT MURDER YOU COMMITTED BACK THEN...
URDER
14-year-old Boy Wanted to become famous
Kill
DIG DEEPER, THEN--
YOU MUST ...
...BEAR THIS IN MIND.


...AS THERE ARE FANS OF THE SONG.
...THAT THERE'D BE JUST AS MANY PEOPLE WHO'RE UNIMPRESSED WITH WHAT YOU'VE DONE...

IN ANY CASE, WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO BRING THIS TO A CONCLUSION SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.
...I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
AS MUCH AS I'D SAY YOU JUST THREW SOME GAS ONTO THE FIRE BY CREATING THAT SONG...

YOU WANNA DIE, YOU JACK-ASS?!
STAGGER
STAGGER
THE COPS ARE USELESS...
PIK
SCREEEE


WOBBLE
TAWATARI HAS TO HAVE DONE THIS...
HE MUST'VE HIRED SOMEONE ELSE TO PULL THIS OFF SO HE'D HAVE AN ALIBI...
WOBBLE
HE'S DEFINITELY ALIVE... HE HAS TO BE...
STAGGER
YUUSUKE'S STILL ALIVE...
WOBBLE

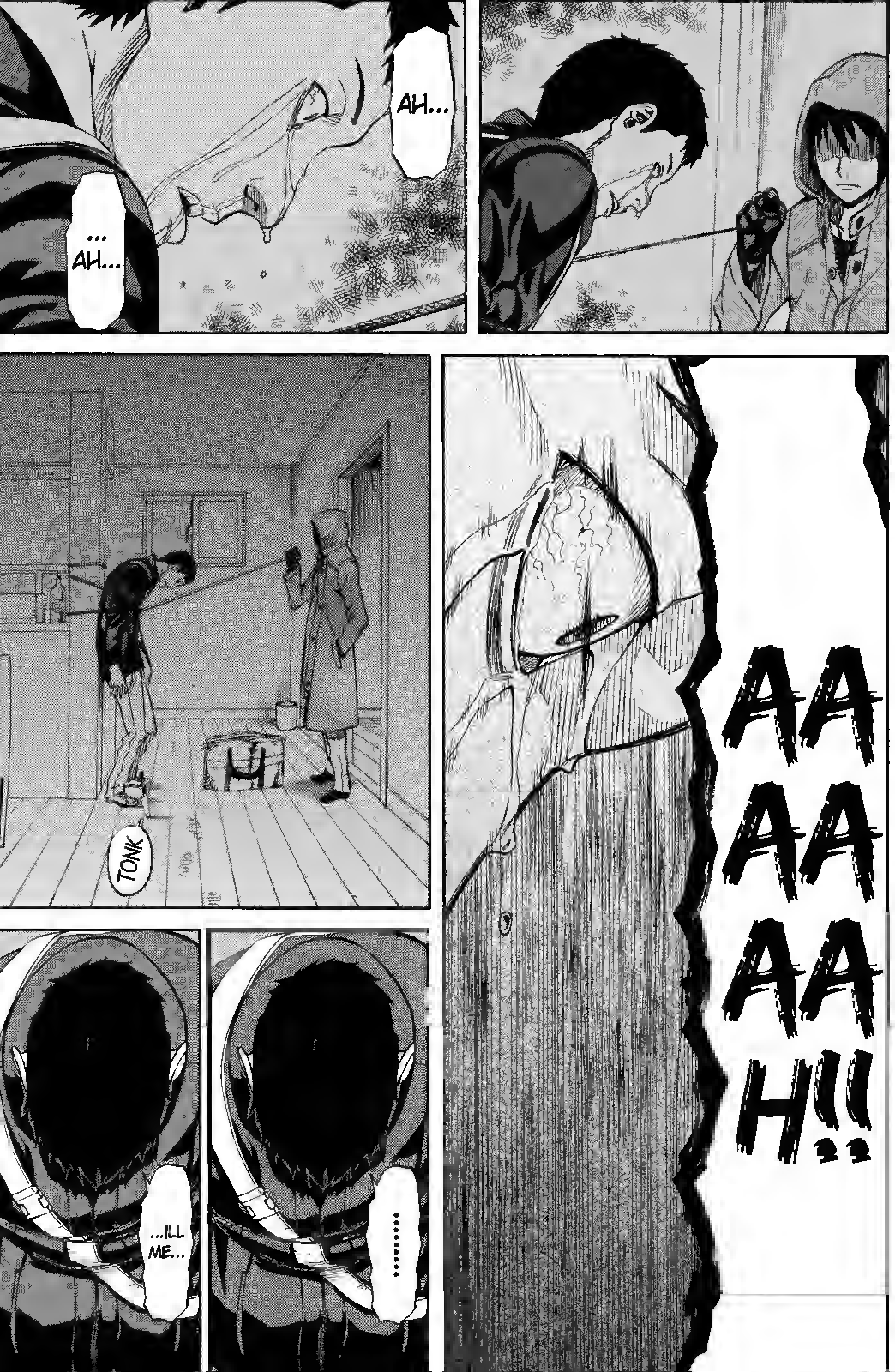

WAIT FOR ME, YUUSUKE!
I WON'T BELIEVE IT UNTIL I SEE IT...!

...SAVE YOU, NO MATTER WHAT...
I WILL...
PKLING

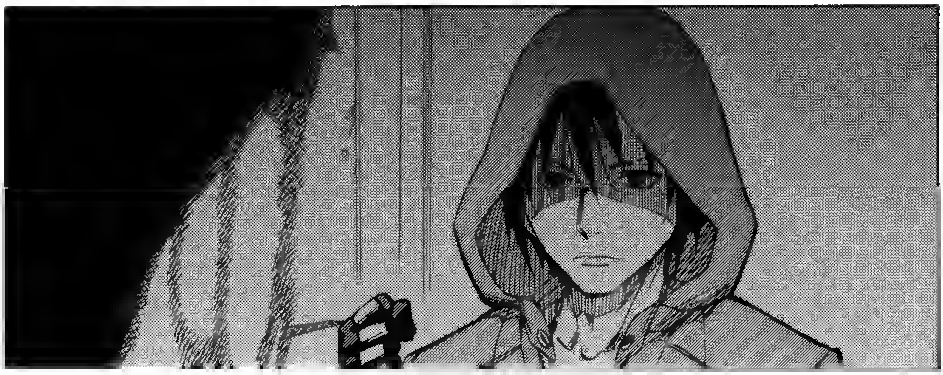
!
TWING
CREAK
CREAK
VWIRRRR
DID... DID TAWATARI HIRE YOU?! WHERE'S MY SON?!
FWUMP
!
YOU'RE NOT TAWATARI!! WHO ARE YOU?!
!
KRIK
SO... YOU CAME...

WHA--
WHAT'S THAT BAG...?
...HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYTHING!!
MY SON...
YOU ACTUALLY KILLED HIM!!
THEN... CAN YOU TELL... THE KID YOU KILLED...
...THE SAME... EXACT... THING...?

YOU'RE THE ONE... WHO SOWED THE SEEDS OF HELL... TO BECOME FAMOUS...
WHETHER... YOU'VE BEEN REHABILITATED OR NOT... THE FACT THAT YOU MURDERED A KID... AND THE SADNESS YOU CAUSED HIS FAMILY... WILL NOT DISAPPEAR...
YOU'RE THE ONE...
...WHO KILLED... YOUR SON...

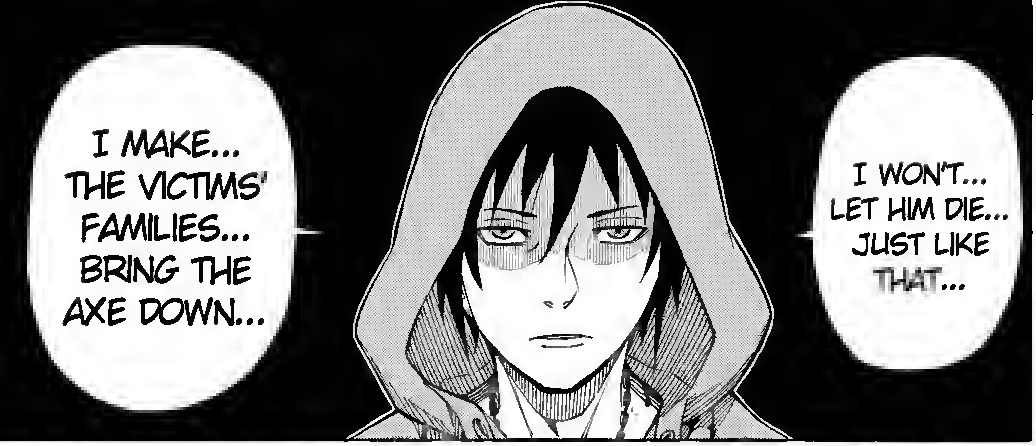

AH...
...
AH...
TONK
AAAAAAH!!
...ILL ME...
.....

...ME...
...NOW...
PLEASE...
...KILL...



KEEP... DRIVING... THROUGH THIS... MOUNTAIN ROUTE...
DRIVE... THIS CAR... TONIGHT ...
...PART OF CREATING MY ALIBI, TOO?
IS THIS DRIVE...
KOOM
WOBBLE
!

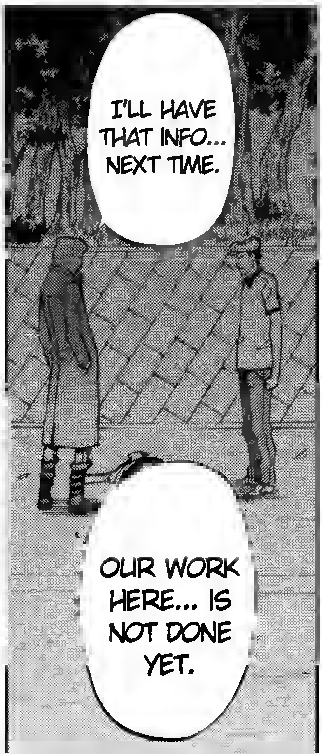
!
SCREEE
OH MY GOD !!
...THE BOY KNOWN AS HELL...
...HE'S... ALREADY... BEEN DEAD...
EVEN IF... YOU HADN'T... RUN HIM OVER...
HE... WISHED... TO DIE...
THIS IS PROOF... THAT I KILLED... HIS SOUL...


I MAKE... THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES... BRING THE AXE DOWN...
I WON'T... LET HIM DIE... JUST LIKE THAT...

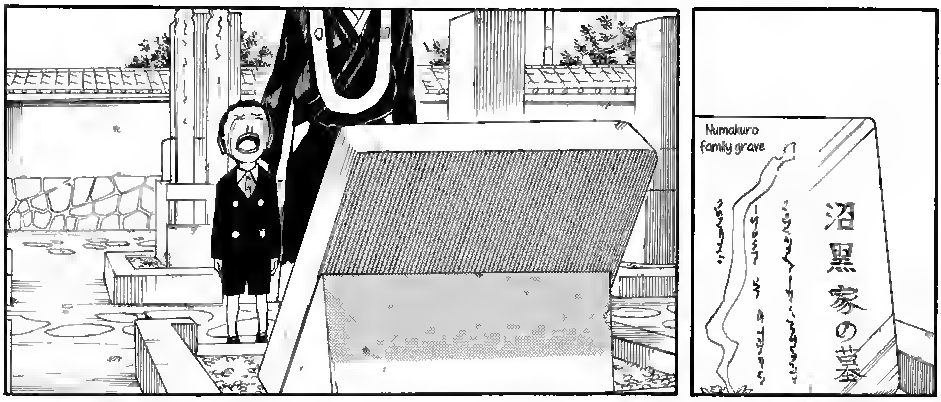
ARE YOU SURE YOU ONLY WANT ME TO REPAY YOU BY CONNECTING YOU TO OTHER VICTIMS' FAMILIES?
WHO... WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?

!

SLURRRP


I'LL HAVE THAT INFO... NEXT TIME.
OUR WORK HERE... IS NOT DONE YET.

WHERE'S YOUR PAPA AND MAMA?
WHAT'S GOING ON, SON? ARE YOU LOST?


Numakuro family grave
沼黒家の墓

WHY... MAKE THAT FACE...?
I'VE TAKEN CARE... OF... THE CAR... AND THE MANNEQUIN USED... TO FAKE THAT KID'S... DEATH...

I THOUGHT YOU... TREASURED YOUR SON'S MEMORY.
HAVING... SOME SYMPATHY... FOR THE ENEMY...?
YOU... SOWED THE SEEDS... THAT LED TO THIS.

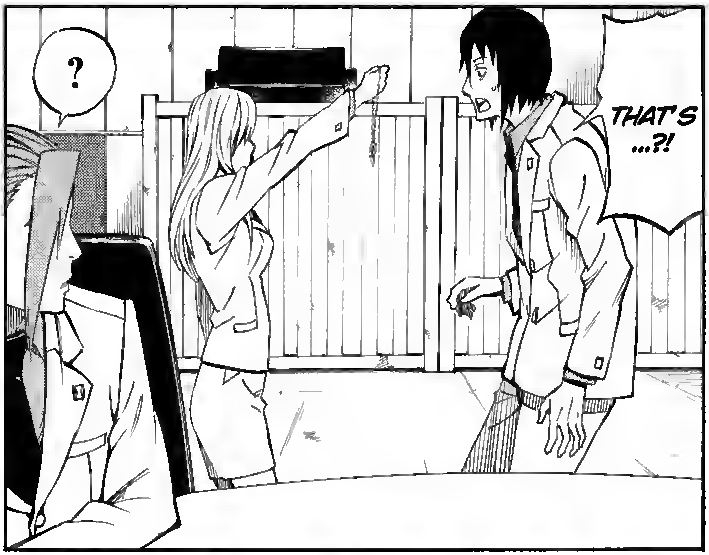
WHERE'S THAT GENTLEMEN WHO WAS JUST WITH YOU?
HE SAID HE HAD OTHER BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF...

!
SLPP
HERE YOU GO.
THE REGISTRY FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF MURDER VICTIMS' FAMILIES...

VERY WELL, TAWATARI-SAMA. CAN YOU COMPLETE THE PAPERWORK FOR THIS CHILD'S ADOPTION DOWN AT OUR OFFICE?
UNDER-STOOD, SIR...

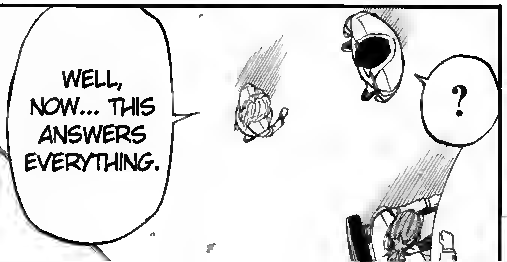
?
SQUEEZE
SKFF
!
I'M SO SORRY...

.....


?
THAT'S ...?!

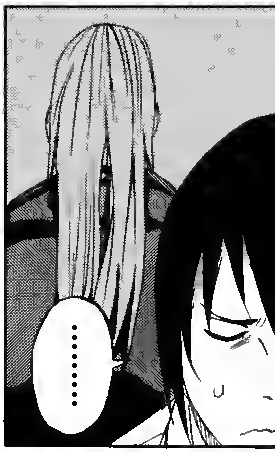
I "REALLY DID KEEP IT"?

I SEE...
SO YOU REALLY DID KEEP IT ALL THIS TIME...


WELL, NOW... THIS ANSWERS EVERYTHING.
?

YOU LOST YOUR FATHER AND BROTHER IN A FIRE, OR SOMETHING...
I REMEMBER RYOKO GETTING THAT INFO FROM THE CAPTAIN.
YOU KNOW ABOUT MY PAST?
YOU SAID YOU LOST AN OLDER BROTHER?

THAT'S WHY I GAVE IT TO YOU, AS YOU WERE A VICTIM OF SOMETHING TERRIBLE, JUST LIKE ME.
THAT PENDANT... GAVE ME STRENGTH WHEN I WAS ALONE.


.....

SO NOW, IT'S A MEMENTO FROM MY BROTHER INSTEAD.
SOME THINGS... HAPPENED, AND THIS HALF ENDED UP IN MY HANDS.

SHE GAVE EACH OF US ONE HALF, BUT I LOST MINE LONG AGO.
IT WAS ORIGINALLY A MEMENTO FROM MY MOTHER.

?
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY...?
YOU'RE WRONG THAT THIS IS YOUR BROTHER'S MEMENTO.
HOLD ON.
BUT NOW, RYOKO, IT'S ALL YOURS...
I'M SAYING THAT YOUR BROTHER...
...IS STILL ALIVE OUT THERE!

KTIK
KTIK
K-ネ
A-2
G-11
C-20
A1

English Digital Edition
Chapter 022

Sukedachi 09
助太刀09
Seishi Kishimoto

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